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U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic
data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday,
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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products
September 2002

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary September steel imports were **\$1.1 billion (2.9 million metric tons)**. This was an increase of \$0.2 billion (0.5 million metric tons) from the preliminary August totals of \$1.0 billion (2.4 million metric tons).

The August to September change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in wire rods and hot rolled sheets. Decreases occurred primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs and reinforcing bars. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Turkey and China. A decrease occurred primarily with Mexico.

The year to date final statistics through August of 2002 showed steel imports of 18.8 million metric tons, an increase of 0.9 million metric tons from the 18.0 million metric tons through August of 2001. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs and hot rolled sheets. The largest decreases occurred in cold rolled sheets and oil country goods. The largest country increases were with Brazil and Canada. The largest decreases occurred with Korea and South Africa.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is November 26, 2002